

Dear Co-Chair Winfield, Co-Chair Stafstrom and members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to **OPPOSE** SB 16 and Raised HB 5416. I believe that both of these proposed bills would be detrimental to the budget of the State of Connecticut and the rights of its citizens.

## **H.B. No. 5416 - AN ACT PROHIBITING THE BULK PURCHASE OF FIREARM**

H.B. No. 5416 would have potential catastrophic effects on the budget for the State of Connecticut. By limiting law-abiding citizens to the purchase of no more than one handgun during a 30 day period, the income generated from sales tax on the purchase of firearms would decrease significantly. Based on prior years sales, a single store submits well over \$150,000 of sales tax revenue per year to the state. Extrapolating this data would mean that by passing H.B. No. 5416, the state would be missing out on millions of dollars per year generated from the multiple firearm purchases during a 30 day period.

In my opinion, H.B. No. 5416 would not have any impact on the use of firearms while committing a crime. It is important to note that ALL gun stores are already required to submit a form to the ATF and the Department of Public Safety whenever an individual purchases/transfers two or more handguns within five business days.

One last issue I take with proposed H.B. No. 5416 is the effect that it would have on the legal transfers of firearms from an estate to a permit-bearing individual or relative. Under H.B. No. 5416, it could take months, if not years to properly and legally transfer property to next of kin.

## **Governor's Bill No. 16 - AN ACT ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE AND JUVENILE CRIME**

The Governor's Bill No. 16 aims to "implement the Governor's budget recommendations", but instead is an expansion of our state's already strict definitions of what constitutes an assault weapon.

The Department of Public Safety is the entity responsible for conducting the background checks instead of going direct to NICS. Over the last two years, firearm sales have increased drastically. This has caused a strain on an already understaffed and underfunded department. Permit renewals that would normally be done via a walk-in visit to the headquarters in Middletown are now taking on average three months via the mail. S.B. No.16 would require that all legal owners of newly designated assault weapons be required to register with the state in a similar process to 2013. This would create a further backlog for the employees of the DESPP and delays for law-abiding citizens trying to operate within the parameters of the law.

Instead of focusing on new restrictions to place on law-abiding citizens, the State should focus on reforming its punishment for criminals who violate the current law. The state should focus on the criminals who become repeat offenders due to lack of prosecution and punishment, rather than the law-abiding citizens who are simply exercising their Second Amendment right and stimulating the economy.

Thank you for considering my opinion on these proposed bills.

Respectfully,

Courtney Hatlee  
Newington, CT